

## THIS WEEK IN TEXAS HISTORY

January 2012 – Week 2

Air Date: January 8 – January 14 (Sunday – Saturday)



### TITLE: SPINDLETOP BLOWS

JANUARY 1901 AND A TEXAS IMMIGRANT STRIKES IT BIG.

THIS WEEK IN TEXAS HISTORY, BROUGHT TO YOU BY THIS STATION AND THE SAVE TEXAS HISTORY PROGRAM OF THE GENERAL LAND OFFICE.

JANUARY 10, 1901. THE SPINDLETOP OIL FIELD NEAR BEAUMONT.

BORN IN CROATIA, ANTHONY LUCAS HAD COME TO AMERICA LOOKING FOR A JOB. HE CAME TO TEXAS LOOKING FOR OIL.

BELIEVING OIL COLLECTED UNDER SALT DOMES, LUCAS HAD DRILLED FOR A YEAR BUT FOUND NOTHING.

SUDDENLY, MUD BEGAN TO BUBBLE UP FROM THE WELL. NATURAL GAS SHOT OUT... THEN OIL... GUSHING 200 FEET INTO THE SKY.

THE WELL RAN WILD FOR 10 DAYS, SPOUTING 100,000 BARRELS OF OIL A DAY – MORE THAN EVERY WELL IN THE U.S. COMBINED. IT COULD BE SEEN FOR MILES AND FORMED AN OIL LAKE A HUNDRED ACRES WIDE.

LUCAS AND SPINDLETOP USHERED IN THE MODERN OIL ERA 111 YEARS AGO, THIS WEEK IN TEXAS HISTORY.

LEARN MORE AT SAVETEXASHISTORY.ORG OR CALL 800-998-4GLO.

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Robert Wooster and Christine Moor Sanders, "SPINDLETOP OILFIELD," *Handbook of Texas Online* (<http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/dos03>), accessed December 22, 2011. Published by the Texas State Historical Association.

Robert Wooster, "LUCAS, ANTHONY FRANCIS," *Handbook of Texas Online* (<http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/flu04>), accessed December 22, 2011. Published by the Texas State Historical Association.

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